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MONDAY

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SUMMARY OF MAJOR MEDIA ITEMS ON INTELLIGENCE

Pope Assassination Attempt. The CIA believes that Bulgarian officials knew in advance of Turkish terrorist Mehmet Agca's plans to kill the Pope, but they never thought the plans would be carried out. The CIA is convinced that neither the Bulgarians nor the Soviet Union instigated the attack on the Pope. CIA "specialists" believe that Bulgarian intelligence agents knew Agca was bent on killing the Pope, but they reportedly considered him an unstable person who probably would be captured. CIA has concluded the three Bulgarians who have been implicated in the shooting were intelligence agents with whom Agca was working on some unknown matter. [LOS ANGELES TIMES, as reported by UPI and published in WASHINGTON POST, 31 January, p. A-16 and WASHINGTON TIMES, 31 January, p. A-3]. The CIA's lack of interest in the Agca case may stem from embarrassment at not detecting a possible Soviet connection in the first place. Former DCI Richard Helms says: "The CIA appears to have been outgunned on this. They're miffed about something." [TIME, 7 February, p. 36]